CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-37, and 39-57.

- After this Amendment: Claims 1-3, 5, 8-13, 15, 18-37, and 39-43.

Non-Elected, Canceled, or Withdrawn claims: 4, 6-7, 14, 16-17, 38 and 44-57.

Amended claims: Claims 1, 11, 20, 25, 34 and 41.

New claims: None.

Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations that are concurrently broadcast, wherein said monitoring comprises monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

automatically switching back and forth between displays of the two or more electronic presentations based upon viewer-defined preferences, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are:

defined in terms of events that can occur within specified electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity

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or action that can take place within the specified electronic presentation itself; and

<u>defined in terms of priorities assigned to events that can occur within the two or more electronic presentations, wherein the priorities assigned to events that occur within the two or more electronic presentations are assigned a value by the user.</u>

2. **(Previously Presented)** The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of the specified electronic presentations' titles.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that can occur within the specified electronic presentations.

4. **(Canceled)**

5. **(Previously Presented)** The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein the viewer defined preferences are defined in terms of at least one of:

the specified electronic presentations' titles;

topics that can occur within the specified electronic presentations; and

events that can occur within the specified electronic presentations.

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6.   **(Canceled)**

7.   **(Canceled)**

8.   **(Original)** The viewing management method of claim 1, wherein said automatically switching comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP) display for the viewer in which at least two of the electronic presentations are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer.

9.   **(Original)** One or more computers programmed with instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 1.

10.   **(Original)** One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method of claim 1.

11.   **(Currently Amended)** A viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations that are concurrently broadcast, wherein said monitoring comprises monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

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automatically notifying a viewer when one or more of the electronic presentations satisfies a viewer-defined preference, wherein viewer-defined preferences ~~can be~~ are defined in terms of:

events that can occur within specified electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the specified electronic presentation itself and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said two or more electronic presentations; and

priorities assigned to events that can occur within the two or more electronic presentations, wherein the priorities assigned to events that occur within the two or more electronic presentations are assigned a value by the user.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of the specified electronic presentations' titles.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that can occur within the specified electronic presentations.

14. **(Canceled)**

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15. **(Previously Presented)** The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of at least one of:

the specified electronic presentations' titles;

topics that can occur within the specified electronic presentations; and

events that can occur within the specified electronic.

16. **(Canceled)**

17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Original)** The viewing method of claim 11, wherein said automatically notifying comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP) display for the viewer in which at least two of the electronic presentations are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer.

19. **(Original)** One or more computers programmed with instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 11.

20. **(Currently Amended)** One or more programmable computers having instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers implement a viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations comprising:

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sending at least one viewer request to an encoder, the viewer request containing one or more viewer-defined preferences that relate to one or more events that can occur in one or more specified electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the specified electronic presentation itself, [[and]] wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said one or more electronic presentations and wherein the viewer-defined preferences that relate to one or more event are prioritized by the viewer assigning a value to the preference;

evaluating, with the encoder, one or more electronic presentations that are being broadcast to determine whether any of the viewer-defined preferences are satisfied, wherein said evaluating comprises at least monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

if a viewer-defined preference is satisfied by one or more of the electronic presentations, notifying a viewer that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that was satisfied.

21. **(Original)** The one or more programmable computers of claim 20, wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the electronic presentation that satisfied the viewer-defined preference.

22. **(Original)** The one or more programmable computers of claim 20, wherein said notifying comprises displaying indicia for the viewer that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that was satisfied.

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23. **(Original)** The one or more programmable computers of claim 20, wherein said viewing management method further comprises prior to said sending:

receiving viewer requests with a server, the viewer requests originating from a plurality of different viewers; and

maintaining at least a list of viewers and their viewer-defined preferences in the server,

said sending comprising sending the viewer requests from the server to the encoder.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The one or more programmable computers of claim 23, wherein said notifying comprises:

sending a first notification from the encoder to the server;

receiving the first notification sent from the encoder; and

sending a second notification from the server to the viewer.

25. **(Currently Amended)** A viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

receiving one or more viewer requests from one or more viewers, the viewer requests containing viewer-defined preferences that are to be used to evaluate a plurality of different live electronic presentations, wherein the viewer defined preferences are assigned a value by the user;

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evaluating a plurality of live electronic presentations using the viewer-defined preferences, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of events that can occur within specified electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the specified electronic presentation itself and wherein said evaluating comprises at least monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer, and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said electronic presentations; and

in the event that one or more of the viewer-defined preferences is satisfied, notifying at least one viewer that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is satisfied.

26. **(Original)** The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the electronic presentation that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is satisfied.

27. **(Original)** The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said notifying comprises displaying indicia of the electronic presentation that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is satisfied.

28. **(Original)** The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said notifying comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP) display for a viewer in which at least two electronic presentations are contemporaneously displayed for

the viewer, one of the electronic presentations comprising one which is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is satisfied.

29. **(Original)** The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said receiving is performed by a server that is programmed to receive the viewer requests and notify the viewers.

30. **(Original)** The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said receiving is performed by a server that is programmed to receive the viewer requests, evaluate the live electronic presentations, and notify the viewers.

31. **(Original)** The viewing management method of claim 25, wherein said evaluating comprises:

receiving information describing the electronic presentations as they are being broadcast;

receiving updated information describing the electronic presentations as they are being broadcast; and

evaluating all of the information that is received in light of the viewer-defined preferences.

32. **(Original)** One or more computers programmed with instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to implement the method of claim 25.

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33.   (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method of claim 25.

34.   (Previously Presented) A viewing management method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

creating a viewer request that contains one or more viewer-defined preferences for use in evaluating one or more live electronic presentations, wherein the user defined preferences are assigned a value by the user;

sending the viewer request to one or more computing devices; and

evaluating one or more electronic presentations with the one or more computing devices in light of the one or more viewer-defined preferences, wherein the viewer-defined preferences can be defined in terms of events that can occur in specified electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the specified electronic presentation itself and wherein said evaluating comprises at least monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said electronic presentations.

35.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34 further comprising using the one or more computing devices to send a notification to a viewer in the event that one or more of the electronic presentations satisfies one or more of the viewer-defined preferences.

36. **(Original)** The viewing management method of claim 34 further comprising automatically displaying an electronic presentation for a viewer in the event that the electronic presentation satisfies one or more of the viewer-defined preferences.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The viewing management method of claim 34, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of the specified electronic presentations' titles.

38. **(Canceled)**

39. **(Previously Presented)** The viewing management method of claim 34, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that can occur in the specified electronic presentations.

40. **(Original)** One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method of claim 34.

41. **(Currently Amended)** An interactive network comprising:

one or more client viewing devices; and

one or more computing devices communicatively linked with the one or more client viewing devices, the computing devices being programmed to:

simultaneously monitor one or more electronic presentations that are concurrently broadcast by at least monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

automatically send a notification to one or more of the client viewing devices when one or more of the electronic presentations satisfies one or more viewer-defined preference that is defined by a viewer of the one or more client viewing devices, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of:

events that can occur in specified electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the specified electronic presentation itself and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said electronic presentations; and

priorities assigned to events that occur within the two or more electronic presentations, wherein the priorities assigned to events that occur within the two or more electronic presentations are assigned a value by the user.

42. **(Original)** The interactive network of claim 41, wherein the one or more client viewing devices are programmed to automatically display at least an indicia of an electronic presentation that satisfies one or more of the viewer-defined preferences upon receiving a notification from the one or more computing devices.

43. **(Original)** The interactive network of claim 42, wherein said indicia

comprises a display of the live electronic presentation.

44-57. **(Canceled)**